

Library Science

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# ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION  
506 1/2 CENTER STREET  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

UNIVERSITY  
OF MICHIGAN

AUG 13 1956

LIBRARY SCIENCE  
LIBRARY



University of Michigan  
Department of Library Science  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

## REMEMBER THESE DATES:

- Library Materials Workshop,  
Magnolia . . . . . August 13-17
- Arkansas Library Association Annual Meeting,  
Little Rock . . . . . September 23-25
- Southwest Regional Library Association,  
Biennial Conference, Oklahoma City . . October 10-12
- Third Arkansas Book Fair,  
Little Rock . . . . . October 21-24

SEC. 34.66 F. L. & R.

Vol. 13, Series II

July, 1956

Number 1

Issued Quarterly  
ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION  
In Co-operation With  
ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



# Arkansas Libraries

Vol. 13, Series II

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## LIBRARY MATERIALS WORKSHOP, SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE, MAGNOLIA, AUGUST 13-17

By Frances Potter Neal<sup>1</sup>

**T**HE second workshop for practicing librarians of public libraries in Arkansas sponsored by the Arkansas Library Commission will be held at Southern State College, Magnolia, August 13-17. Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary and librarian, Arkansas Library Commission, will be director of the workshop.

Hostess librarians will be Miss Velma Lee Adams, librarian, Southern State College, and Miss Florene Jordan, librarian, Columbia-LaFayette Regional Library.

The subject of study will be **LIBRARY MATERIALS FOR ADULTS**. The study will be divided into four areas with a member of the steering committee serving as chairman of each area. **MAN AND HIS FAMILY**: Miss Lucy Moore, chairman, Mrs. W. H. McCain, Miss Freddy Schader, Miss Allie Wilson; **MAN AND HIS COMMUNITY**: Mrs. Hazel Deal, chairman, Miss LaNell Compton, Miss Marcella Grider, Miss Pearl Williamson; **MAN AND HIS STATE AND NATION**: Miss Elizabeth Malone, chairman, Mrs. Almon Faught, Miss Dorothy Fenton, Mrs. Anne Jackson; **MAN AND HIS WORLD**: Miss Elisabeth Huey, chairman, Miss Florence C. Carmichael, Mrs. Jim Merritt, Mrs. W. F. Yost. Special emphasis will be placed on books but correlation with films and records will be made. Chairman of non-book materials will be Mrs. Anne Jackson.

Mrs. Muriel C. Javelin of the staff of the Library Community Project, American Library Association, Chicago, will be consultant. She was in Arkansas May 2-4, to assist the steer-

ing committee in making plans for the workshop. While in Arkansas she visited the Gann Memorial Library, Benton, the Hot Springs County Library, Malvern, the Garland County Library, Hot Springs, the Faulkner-Van Buren Regional Library, Conway, the North Little Rock Public Library, the Little Rock Public Library and Pulaski County Library.

During the A.L.A. conference at Miami Beach a group of Arkansas librarians and trustees met with Miss Ruth Warncke, director, Library-Community Project, and Mrs. Javelin to discuss the goals for the workshop and to examine the lists of books which will be on exhibit at Magnolia.

Mrs. Javelin will be in Little Rock July 8-9 for a second conference with the steering committee.

All head librarians of county and regional libraries receiving state aid will be expected to attend the entire workshop. Librarians of any public library in the state are welcome to attend. Trustees and friends of the library are invited for Wednesday, August 15, when there will be a luncheon honoring them. W. P. Florence, chairman, trustee section, Arkansas Library Association, will be in charge of this session.

Sessions will be held in the air conditioned library of Southern State College. Rooms in the college dormitory and meals in the cafeteria will be available at a nominal cost.

Further information may be secured by writing Mrs. Karl Neal, Arkansas Library Commission, 506½ Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Karl Neal is executive secretary and librarian, Arkansas Library Commission.

## PLANS FOR THIRD ARKANSAS BOOK FAIR

By Freddy Schader<sup>1</sup>

**T**HE third Arkansas Book Fair will be held in Little Rock at the auditorium of the Education Building of the Temple B'Nai Israel on October 21-24. The fair is sponsored by the four public libraries of greater Little Rock—the Arkansas Library Combrary, the North Little Rock Public mission, the Little Rock Public Library, and the Pulaski County Library. Arkansas is very fortunate in that the Book Fair is one of several in the United States receiving 1500 books for display from the Children's Book Council of New York City.

One outstanding feature of the Arkansas Book Fair is that the 1500 books will again become a traveling Book Fair covering the entire state. Last year the books were divided into two groups of 650 books each, one group traveling south of Little Rock and one group north of Little Rock. A schedule for the books was worked out so that they were constantly in use, and the only expense to the library was the transportation charges for sending the books on to the next Book Fair. There were 40 local Book Fairs in all parts of Arkansas sponsored by colleges, county and public libraries, and school libraries. Thousands of adults and children who could not visit the fair in Little Rock had the happy experience of seeing and examining new and recommended books.

Cooperation is the keynote of the Arkansas Book Fair. Again the local bookstores—Allsopp and Chapple, the Baptist Book Store, and Pfeifers Book Department—will finance the printing of lists of all books on display, giving the title, author, publisher, price and age level. Lists will be given to all who attend the fair so

that they may be marked for future purchase.

Several organizations including the Arkansas Congress of Parents and Teachers, the Arkansas Chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Arkansas Library Association, and the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs will help defray the expenses of the Book Fair. Some other organizations who will cooperate by providing hostesses are the A.A.U.W., the B. & P. W., the P. T. A., and the Congregation of the B'Nai Israel.

Three programs will be given daily at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. At each program there will be a visiting author featured as a speaker and a 20-minute program presented by a group from one of the schools. School children from schools all over the state will be scheduled to attend the programs.

Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission, will serve as general chairman of the 1956 Arkansas Book Fair. She has announced the following committee chairmen: Program of school groups—Miss Mary Sue Shepherd, librarian, Pulaski County Library; Decorations—Miss Jacqueline Poe, librarian, Southwest Arkansas Regional Library; Poster Contest—Mrs. Anne Jackson, consultant for high school and public libraries, Arkansas Library Commission; Special Exhibits—Miss Ida Mae Hagin, Children's librarian, Little Rock Public Library; Scheduling of School Children—Mrs. Franklin Yost, reference librarian, Arkansas Library Commission; and Printing and Hostesses—Miss Elsie Weisenberger, librarian, North Little Rock Public Library.

<sup>1</sup>Miss Schader is elementary school library consultant and head of the circulation department, Arkansas Library Commission.

## POSTER CONTEST THIRD ARKANSAS BOOK FAIR

By Anne Stingley Jackson<sup>1</sup>

**F**OR the third consecutive year a state wide poster contest has been planned as a part of the Arkansas Book Fair to be held in Little Rock, October 21-24.

There will be three divisions in the poster contest, one for high school students, grades 10-12, one for junior high school students, grades 7-9, and one for elementary school students, grades 4-6.

The contest will give children and young people an opportunity to show their artistic ability by making and entering original posters.

Autographed copies of books by visiting authors will be presented as prizes to the winners. A committee of judges will be named to select the winning posters. Consideration will be given the following points: creativeness, originality, artistry, and neatness. The winning posters will be exhibited at the Book Fair. Other outstanding entries may be used as decorations during the Fair.

All schools are asked to participate in the state-wide Book Fair by entering posters in the contest. It is suggested that each school sponsor a poster contest giving publicity to the

program and recognition to local winners at assembly programs, by radio and in newspapers. County and regional librarians will cooperate with school administrators, librarians and teachers in this project.

### Rules for Poster Contest:

Who is eligible: Anyone enrolled in grades 4-12.

Theme: Books and Reading.

Color: Any color or combination of colors or black and white.

Medium: Crayon, paint, oil, charcoal, ink, pencil, any other.

Paper: Good grade poster paper or board.

Size: Not to exceed 22 x 28 inches.

Number: One poster for every 250 students or fraction thereof enrolled. Only one poster may be entered by a student.

Each poster must be labeled with the name, school, address, and grade level of the entrant.

Entries must be submitted by October 15, to Mrs. Anne Jackson, chairman, Book Fair Poster Committee, Arkansas Library Commission, 506 1/2 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## PLANS FOR OUR STATE LIBRARY MEETING

**T**HE annual convention of the Arkansas Library Association will be held at the Hotel Marion in Little Rock, September 23-25. The Association Executive Board and Program Committee met in Little Rock on April 21. Another meeting will be necessary to complete program arrangements. Present commitments include David H. Clift, American Li-

brary Association's executive secretary, as one of the principal speakers.

Mrs. R. C. Keathley, president of the Arkansas librarians, has announced the following convention committees:

### 1. Local Arrangements

Mrs. Dula Reid, chairman  
Miss Elsie Weisenberger

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Jackson is consultant for public and high school libraries, Arkansas Library Commission.

Mrs. Jewell H. Wolfe  
Mrs. Coy Callanen  
Mrs. Lee Martin  
and Mrs. Opal Walters

2. Exhibits

Mrs. Franklin Yost, chairman  
Mrs. Charles C. Carpenter  
Miss Gladys Sachse  
Miss Mary Sue Shepherd  
and Miss Allie Wilson

3. Registration

Mrs. Lorene Bryant, chairman

Mrs. Tommie Dailey  
and Miss Virginia Gertig

4. Decorations

Mrs. R. L. Pemberton, chm.  
Mrs. E. G. Kizzia  
Miss Clarene Lowery  
Mrs. Louise Mays  
Miss Mary E. Upton  
Miss Blanche Miller

5. Nominating Committee

Mrs. Florene Jordan, chairman  
Mrs. Dorothy Sydenstricker  
and Miss Freddy Schader

## OUACHITA COUNTY HAS BOOK SELECTION WEEK

By Frances Nix<sup>1</sup>

**C**APITALIZING on the ideas of a school superintendent, the Ouachita County librarians and teachers made a gala affair of book selection for spring orders. The first Book Selection Week for Ouachita County school libraries was held May 7-12. This was a week of real cooperation between the county library and the schools of the county.

Mr. J. L. Holt, superintendent of Camden schools, insisted that spring book orders would assure new books for the next school term and that teachers should have books available for examination when making selections. He appointed Mrs. C. E. Moseley, principal of Center Street School, to survey the possibilities for having a book exhibit to make the newest and best books accessible to the teachers and librarians as they prepared their orders.

To make the benefits available to the entire county, Mrs. Moseley appointed Mr. Homer Anderson, county school supervisor, Miss Frances Nix, county librarian, and Mrs. Willie B. Cole, principal of Carver Elementary school, to work with her in planning for a book exhibit.

Because of central location and accessibility, the Public Library was selected as the proper place for the exhibit. Since the Arkansas Library Commission has the Publishers Exhibit available for loan, the books for the exhibit were borrowed from the Commission. As plans continued it seemed that the program needed a name, so Mrs. Moseley's coined name, "Book Selection Week", became official. A good date became a problem with end-of-school activities in progress. May 7-12 was selected so that assistance could be had from members of the Commission staff, and the opening of the exhibit could be coordinated with County Teachers Meeting, May 7.

On Monday, May 7, approximately one thousand of the best books for school libraries were placed on display in the Memorial Room of the Public Library. At 6:30 p.m., Freddy Schader, Arkansas Library Commission, spoke to Mrs. Willie B. Cole and her fellow teachers about hints and tips in selecting and buying.

At the same hour Mrs. Karl Neal, Arkansas Library Commission, was guest speaker at the Ouachita County

<sup>1</sup>Miss Frances Nix, librarian, Public Library of Camden and Ouachita County, Camden, Arkansas.



Teachers Meeting; and at 8:00 p.m. all those attending the Teachers Meeting went to the Public Library to hear Miss Schader. With this timely opening there was time for browsing and questioning. The books remained on display all week and teachers came at their convenience to make their selections. Many class groups came and made the selections for the teachers. Parents came to see what was available to the schools and to select for home libraries and gifts.

### SWLA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

**THE** 1956 biennial meeting of the Southwest Regional Library Association will convene at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 10-12.

Each section of the Association is planning a general session. General conference theme will be "The Education of a Librarian." The Public Libraries Section, with Miss Florene Jordan, Magnolia, as chairman, will present a general session program on Thursday morning, October 11. The Children's and Young People's Section will present the program for the general session on Thursday evening, with Miss Freddy Schader of Little Rock as chairman. Ralph Shaw,

The first Book Selection Week for Ouachita County was a big success. People came to the library for the first time. Teachers cooperated in preparing orders and students helped in making selections. Next year's plans will be made early enough to give all schools time to set up budgets, calendar the dates, and study present collections. Another attempt to make the Public Library a coordinating center was rewarding.

President of the American Library Association, will be guest speaker on Friday morning, October 12.

Southwest Regional Library Association's president is Miss Patricia Paylore of Tucson, Arizona, and Marvin Miller of Fayetteville, Arkansas, is immediate past president.

The Arkansas Library Commission will sponsor a chartered bus for this meeting if as many as thirty-six people are interested in it. Write Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary and librarian, Arkansas Library Commission, 506½ Center Street, if you would like to go by chartered bus to attend this conference.

### LIBRARIES RECEIVE GIFT BOOKS

**ACCORDING** to a recent survey, seven college libraries in Arkansas, one county library and one city library have received gift copies of a complete set of the **Great Books of the Western World** and also a special edition of the Bible published by the Devore Foundation. One county library and one college each received a set of the **Great Books**. Fifty

libraries of various types received complimentary copies of the Devore Foundation's edition of the Bible. Libraries in the state have received a gift copy of **The History of Funeral Directing**, by Robert Wesley Habenstein. In their recent annual meeting, Arkansas Funeral Directors Association voted to make these books available to Arkansas libraries.

### A NEW BRANCH LIBRARY IN DESHA COUNTY

**THE** Southeast Arkansas Regional Library has a new branch library in Watson, Arkansas. The library was formally opened on the evening of May 18, with headquarters in the American Legion Hut. Members of

the Legion Auxiliary served as hostesses. The Watson Branch Library has a basic collection of 750 books of interest to adults, young people and children. Mrs. Bill Craig is clerk of the branch.

As a commentary on the achievement of a branch library at Watson, the following editorial appeared in the DUMAS CLARION, of Dumas, Arkansas:

"Opening of the branch library in Watson Friday night is a move to applaud because it is both an indication of the growth of the library service in Desha County and of the progress of Watson.

"From a beginning of just one city library in the county 12 years ago, the Regional Library service has been expanded to include branches at McGehee, Dumas, Tillar, Arkansas City and Watson and depositories at Kurdo, Jefferson, Pickens and Chickasaw. This service has made thousands of books available to the public over these years.

"Most of the reading has been for recreational purposes on the part of

adults, and fiction ranks at the top of the list. However, for students, the regional library has provided the service of reference materials and special reading that they require. On a week end home recently, a Dumas college student stopped in to tell us that she had been to the branch library here to study for one of her courses. On other occasions, we have had the value of library service brought home to us when we asked for technical books and these were furnished from the State Library Commission through the branch library.

"We are glad to see Watson ask for and receive a branch library for as Giles wrote, 'The silent influence of books is a mighty power in the world; and there is a joy in reading them known only to those who read them with desire and enthusiasm'.

Quoting ROGER BABSON: "Very few people appreciate the great value of books and our God-given privilege of being able to read. The most valuable asset of your community is its public library—not its swimming pool, ball park, or golf course.

"Public library books will help:

1. To prepare us for mature and complete living—personal and family, social and civic—in today's world, and to help develop the natural, cultural, and spiritual values which benefit both the individual and society.

2. To increase our understanding of sciences and humanities and our appreciation of our cultural heritage; also our understanding of others.

3. To help us interest our children in reading good books. Every public library has a specialist who knows how to interest children.

"I even forecast that the time is coming when men and women will get college degrees by studying by themselves in public libraries. Therefore, when you are building yourself some furniture and other things, take some time to build yourself a college degree."

## ARKANSAS TRAVELER FROM CANADA TO MIAMI BEACH

By Bessie Moore<sup>1</sup>

IT was truly a great delight to be invited as a speaker to the Canadian Library Association June 10-15. It was my pleasure to go from Niagara Falls, Canada, to Miami Beach,

Florida, to attend the American Library Association and the American Association of Library Trustees.

Library problems in Canada are similar to those in Arkansas except

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Merlin M. Moore is chairman, Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock.



for the large cities, such as Toronto and Montreal. I spoke once to the Library Trustees, but my other parts on the program were as speaker at the General Session and as luncheon speaker. It is indeed a great honor for Arkansas and for our program to be so widely recognized even outside our own country.

Governor Faubus sent a telegram of greetings to the Canadian Library Association and an Arkansas Traveler's Certificate, which he empowered me to present on his behalf to Mr. Willard Ireland, President of the Canadian Library Association.

While we were in Miami Beach, it was a great delight to hear that President Eisenhower had signed the Library Services Bill which had previously passed the Senate. Several meetings regarding plans to use the money were held during the Conference.

To show our great appreciation for the work of Miss Julia Bennett, ALA Washington representative, it was our pleasure in Arkansas to start a fund for a gift for Miss Bennett. She is so very popular, and everyone was so grateful for her fine work far beyond the call of duty that the membership responded at once; and with no one giving more than one dollar, we were able to buy Miss Bennett a beautiful wristwatch. The exhibitors at the Conference gave her a five-hundred dollar bond to be used toward a trip to Europe when her work schedule permits. I was permitted to make the presentation to Miss Bennett of both these gifts and did so at the Wednesday night session.

We were greatly pleased to have "Operation Library", the project of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, mentioned frequently at the convention. It was mentioned in President Richard's Annual Report, at the Public Relations workshop where it was announced that "Operations Library" would be one of the two principal projects of the American Library As-

sociation for the coming year. Even the former Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, in making a speech to the Friends of the Library luncheon said that "Operation Library" in Arkansas appeared to be the finest thing that had happened for libraries in many years.

In the October issue of ARKANSAS LIBRARIES I will report to you as a board member on the plans for the American Association of Library Trustees for the coming year. We have adopted a five-year plan of action which includes, among other things: (1) Securing at least 5000 members with one membership from every Library Board in the United States. (If you have not sent your dues, I hope you will do so.) (2) Studying the new library standards which have been in preparation for two years. (3) Planning a two-day workshop in Kansas City next year based on the theme "INFORMATION UNLIMITED—a modern library for today's world." The Trustees are planning to have the workshop on Sunday and Monday with the principal part coming on Sunday, so that businessmen who cannot stay all week can go to Kansas City for the week-end and attend this fine conference.

The Commission sent Mrs. Almon Faught as its representative to the Miami Conference. I am sure that she will agree with me that on every occasion we were very proud of the Arkansas librarians in attendance there.

Later you will hear more about the plans for the use of the federal grant from the Library Services Bill; but the money will not come in at once and will be spent only according to a state plan which must be submitted to the United States Commissioner of Education.

Won't you make your plans now to attend the Arkansas Library Association on September 23-25, and the American Library Association in Kansas City next June?

## DEDICATED LIBRARIANS

By Doris McAbee

(Excerpts from her column, "Your Schools", quoted by permission of the MIAMI HERALD. The following commentary on the ALA national conference appeared in the HERALD for Sunday, June 24, 1956.)

**WATCHING** the amazing amount of work accomplished last week when more than 3,500 delegates met at Miami Beach for the 75th annual conference of the American Library Association, I formed one definite conclusion.

Librarians are a dedicated group, as much so as school teachers. And why not? They are in the same profession—education.

They work hard, most of the time without recognition, but perhaps the most impressive thing is that they work for everybody, not just for their own individual libraries.

Their primary concern now is library service for rural sections. But spearheading the project for expanded facilities are representatives of big municipal, college and university libraries who look for and expect no personal gain.

Their only interest is to see that everyone has easy access to community resources which a library can provide.

The 37½ million-dollar bill providing federal aid to rural libraries, signed last Tuesday by President Eisenhower, is a step toward accomp-

lishing this goal. But ALA fought 10 years before the legislation "made the grade."

Here and there, a sprinkling of local women's clubs bravely try to fill the gap with small, understaffed, underequipped libraries which struggle along on practically non-existent budgets.

Yet as Dr. Frank B. Sessa, director of Miami Public Library, says rather wistfully, "You can't really blame the legislators. It is the public who calls the turn."

But how do you arouse the public from its apathy? Arkansas, especially proud of its efforts because of the "backward state" tag it has carried for years, thinks it has found the answer.

A "ball of fire" known more prosaically as Mrs. Merlin Moore, chairman of the Arkansas Library Commission, wants everyone to know about it. Her state legislature hasn't turned down a bill for library appropriations in the last 20 years.

Today, . . . 50 of the state's 75 counties sponsor county or regional libraries which receive both county and state support.

## CAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY EXHIBITS NAVAL ART SHOW

**I**N a pre-Armed Forces Day exhibit the U. S. Navy Combat art show drew many people to the Public Library of Camden and Ouachita County, May 17-21.

The exhibit, known as "Operation Palette", was an outstanding display of oils, water colors, and charcoal paintings. The work depicts U. S. military activities in all theaters of

operation. All were done by official combat artists.

"Operation Palette" contains 100 paintings of World War II and 24 paintings of the Korean War. All of these paintings are original, and have been valued at over a quarter of a million dollars.

Miss Frances Nix, librarian, Public Library of Camden and Ouachita

County, reported: "It was most effective. Many people came to the library for the first time. The Shriners Convention was here and people from all over the state visited our library to see the exhibit. We had the cooperation of all our civic clubs.

"Captain John H. Brandt, U. S. N., office of U. S. Navy Secretary, was

Armed Forces Day speaker at the Naval Art Show. We had a preview showing for Captain Brandt Thursday night. Approximately 500 people registered on Saturday, May 19.

The library was open Sunday afternoon. 500 persons came during the exhibit".

## LIBRARY INFORMATION MEETINGS

By Vivian Martin<sup>1</sup>

THE time had come to think again of spring meetings to discuss ways of improving Arkansas libraries. Since the meetings in 1955 in congressional districts had been quite successful, the decision was to follow the same organizational plan for 1956. There would be a meeting in each district with the member of the Arkansas Library Commission from that district responsible for the program.

The Arkansas Library Commission, the Arkansas Library Association and the Arkansas Junior Chamber of Commerce were sponsors of the meetings. The committee on program was as follows: W. P. Florence, chairman, Trustee Section, Arkansas Library Association, Magnolia; Cecil Edmonds, chairman, Operation Library, Junior Chamber of Commerce, West Memphis; Mrs. Lee Martin, member at large, Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock.

The meetings in 1955 had been planned largely for trustees. This year the field was broadened to include county judges, mayors, patrons, trustees, members of all civic and study clubs and anyone who might be a friend of libraries. The program was planned around two themes: How

Can We Reach More Readers; How Can We Better Finance Our Libraries. At all the meetings it was forcefully brought out that in order to extend service we must have money and to get more money we must give more and better service.

Since libraries have truly found friends among the Jaycees of Arkansas, at each meeting the luncheon program featured and honored members of that organization. At each luncheon there was a speaker provided by Mr. Cecil Edmonds of West Memphis who is promoting "Operation Library" in Arkansas.

The sponsoring organizations feel that these meetings grow better each year. Much interest is manifested and every year a larger attendance is secured. Everyone attending could feel proud of some of the achievements of his library and at the same time could feel impressed with the fact that there were many things yet to be done. Often he received an inspiration or a suggestion from some other library that would improve his library. With the combined efforts of Arkansas citizens and librarians our state can and will attain a richer program of library service.

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Lee Martin is trustee-at-large, Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock.

## WEST MEMPHIS HOST TO LIBRARY TRUSTEES

By Mary M. Faught<sup>1</sup>

**I**N spite of rain that failed to dampen the spirits of library trustees and friends, approximately thirty persons gathered at Watkins Cafe in West Memphis on Tuesday, April 10, for the Library Information Workshop. There were representatives attending the meeting from Greene, Craighead, Poinsett, Crittenden, Phillips, and Mississippi counties, and from the Arkansas Library Commission.

Mrs. Almon Faught, member of the Arkansas Library Commission from the First Congressional District, was in charge of the program, assisted by Miss Elizabeth Malone, librarian of the Public Library of Jonesboro and Craighead County. After a brief social hour and registration period, Miss Malone introduced Mrs. Atlee Harris of West Memphis who was leader of the panel, "How Do We Reach More Readers?" She and her panel members, Mrs. L. H. Polk, West Memphis, Mrs. F. L. Proctor, Forrest City, and Mrs. W. L. Skaggs, Paragould, outlined the services that were being given or could be given by the libraries to shut-ins, clubs, children, teen-agers, business men, and civic organizations.

Mrs. Georgiana Greeson, librarian of Phillips County, Helena, gave an informative talk on the work done with schools in her county. Miss Rebekah Dean, librarian of Poinsett County Library, Harrisburg, discussed the value of organizations such as the Friends of the Library.

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Almon Faught is trustee, Arkansas Library Commission, Jonesboro.

At noon all enjoyed a Dutch Treat luncheon, after which the Jaycee organization of West Memphis presented a **Webster's Unabridged Dictionary** to the chairman of the West Memphis Library. Mr. Cecil Edmonds, Library Chairman of the state Jaycees, gave a resume of the work of Operation Library.

Miss Helen Heinemann, Jonesboro, was moderator for a panel discussion on "Library Finance" on the state and local level. The panel was composed of Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary and librarian, Arkansas Library Commission; Mrs. W. B. Burkett, chairman, Mississippi County Library Board, Bassett; Mr. Cecil Edmonds, West Memphis, and Mrs. J. C. Jeffries, trustee, Phillips County Library, Helena. Following this discussion and a report of the progress of the Library Services Bill, the group decided to send a telegram to Representative E. C. Gathings asking for his continued support of the bill and thanking him for all he had done for Arkansas libraries.

At the close of the meeting there was a feeling that all had profited by the informal discussions, and the two newest libraries especially felt that they had gained much valuable information and inspiration for improving library services to adult readers as well as to children and young people in their communities.

## TRUSTEES OF SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MEET IN SEARCY

By Elsie S. McCain<sup>1</sup>

**A**FTER visiting several trustees and librarians in my congressional district I was able to plan the program for the meeting in my district.

Too much credit cannot be given Mrs. Inez Bishop, librarian, and the White County Library Board, as well as Judge Floyd Bradberry. They

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. W. H. McCain is trustee, Arkansas Library Commission, Cotton Plant.

were eager at all times to do everything possible to help make the meeting an informative and interesting one. The forum was a new type program for us, and much praise goes to Mrs. Lee Martin, trustee of the Arkansas Library Commission, for so ably presenting the questions concerning the needs of our libraries to be discussed. Mrs. Martin was pinch hitting for me in my unavoidable absence.

Sixty-five persons, representing eleven of the thirteen counties in the second Congressional District of Arkansas, answered the question "How Important is Your Library to You?"

The group consisted of trustees; P. T. A.'s; school, public and college librarians; business and professional men and women; club and other organized group members. They met at the Rendezvous Wednesday with the White County Library Board and its community branch library board members as hosts.

A coffee and fellowship hour was enjoyed from 9:30 to 10:00. The morning session was opened by Mrs. George Terry, Batesville, vice chairman of the Trustees Section of the Arkansas Library Association. The invocation was given by Mrs. Nels Barnett, Batesville, trustee, Cleburne-Independence Regional Library.

The welcome address was given by W. E. Orr, White county school supervisor and chairman of the White County Library Board, Searcy. Mr. Orr assured Searcy's visitors that they were in a county which had been book-minded since its beginnings. He pointed out that immediately after the Civil War a wave of Yankee emigration had added hundreds of former enemies to White County's population. Many of these Northerners were interested in the establishment of schools in this section; so they brought their books with them to blend their culture with that of the South.

Library progress, according to Mr. Orr, depends a great deal on faith.

He recalled that when the one-mill tax, which is now the major source of White County library funds, was first mentioned many seasoned politicians regarded its defeat a certainty.

"The amazing faith that Mrs. Inez Bishop, our County librarian, had in our chances of victory was the factor which carried us through," he said. "She provided additional evidence that if you believe a thing strong enough miracles will happen.

Mrs. D. G. Griffiths, librarian, Woodruff County Library, Augusta, responded to the welcome.

At the morning program the topic, "Reaching Readers", was discussed by a panel of six men and women, Miss Freddy Schader, Little Rock, consultant, Elementary Schools, Arkansas Library Commission; Mrs. Hubert Smith, Searcy, trustee, White County Library; James B. Sharp, a banker of Brinkley and trustee of the Folsom Memorial Library; Mrs. Leslie Sturdivant, McCrory, trustee, Woodruff County Library; Mrs. Robert Stroud, Batesville, a patron of the Batesville library; and Mrs. Terry Griffith, Batesville, librarian, Cleburne-Independence Regional Library.

According to James B. Sharp, trustee of the Folsom Memorial Library at Brinkley: "The most impressive aspect of this meeting was the tremendous enthusiasm exhibited by everyone in attendance for the real and important needs that a good library fills in the life of each community represented. There were nearly as many problems and solutions as there were people present, yet it almost was with glee that these problems and the challenging answers were presented. By the time that this meeting drew to a close, there was left absolutely no doubt but that the State Library Commission is the best friend that any library ever had."

Luncheon was served in the Blue Room of the Rendezvous. The program was presented by the state Jaycees. P. G. Gathright, state president of the Jaycees, presided. He



introduced visiting Jaycees, including the president of the new Jaycee organization of Searcy, and two of the local members. He presented Cecil Edmonds as the originator and state chairman of Jaycees' "Operation Library". Mr. Edmonds gave a resume of the movement and of its aims.

The program topic for the afternoon session panel discussion was "Library Finances". The participants were: Mrs. J. E. Lightle, Jr., Searcy, president of the Searcy Branch Library Board; Mrs. John Fuller, Searcy, trustee of the White County Library and the treasurer of its board; J. R. Purdy, Newport, an attorney and trustee of the Jackson County Li-

brary and Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary and librarian, Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock.

Mrs. Martin, moderator of the panel, threw to the audience the question "How can we use the help offered by the Jaycees?" Many suggestions were made, both large and small.

Mrs. Karl Neal, state librarian, Little Rock, was asked to discuss the significance of the Library Services Bill. She explained how the fifty "organized" counties could assist the twenty-five "unorganized" county or regional libraries through funds provided by this federal legislation if it is passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

## DISTRICT LIBRARY MEETING AT HARRISON

By John R. Newman<sup>1</sup>



Seated: Mrs. Karl Neal, Mrs. Merlin M. Moore, John R. Newman. Standing: Mrs. Marion Jones, Mrs. W. F. Yost, Mrs. Anne Jackson.

**A** LIBRARY information meeting for citizens of the Third Congressional District was held in Harrison, April 27, with librarians, teachers and others present from several Northwest Arkansas towns.

John R. Newman, Harrison, a member of the Arkansas Library Commission, representing the Third Congressional District, presided over the all-day meeting.

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Newman is trustee, Arkansas Library Commission, Harrison.



The meeting got under way at 10:00 a.m. with registration and coffee hour at the North Arkansas Regional Library building. The coffee hour was under direction of the Woman's Book Club, Mrs. Margaret Newton, president.

A panel discussion was held at 10:30. Panel members included Mrs. Hazel Deal, librarian, Washington County Library, Fayetteville; Thomas T. Millard, Soil Conservation Service, Harrison; Coy Logan, trustee, North Arkansas Regional Library, Berryville and Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary, Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock.

A noon luncheon was held at the Hotel Seville with Mrs. Merlin Moore, Little Rock, chairman of the Arkansas

Library Commission, giving the principal talk.

Local Junior Chamber of Commerce members who are spearheading a citizens movement in support of the state library program were at the noon luncheon. They included W. T. Harrison, president-elect, H. K. McCaleb, Jr., president, and Frank Mathis, library chairman of the local Jaycee committee. P. D. Gathright, Jr., Little Rock, state president, was unable to attend.

A panel discussion was held that afternoon at the Hotel on Library Finances. Panel members included, Mrs. Merlin M. Moore, chairman, Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock; Senator Roy Milum, North Arkansas Regional Library and Mrs. Frank Green, president of Fortnightly Club, Harrison.

## FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT TRUSTEES' MEETING AT DEQUEEN

By Pearl Williamson<sup>1</sup>

**T**HE Trustees' meeting of the Fourth Congressional District was held in DeQueen on May 9. Not only trustees and librarians attended, but also many other interested citizens. Both the forenoon and the afternoon panel discussions on "Library Information" were well given and well received. The attendance was fair, and the participation was good.

The luncheon, with W. P. Florence, president of Trustee Section, Arkansas Library Association, presiding, was a "high spot" of the meeting. Pete Schmidt, vice-president of the State Jaycees, was the speaker, and he gave a good account of Operation Library. DeQueen has no Junior Chamber of Commerce, but all DeQueen civic groups were well represented. Of the fifty-six persons present, eleven were members of Chamber of Commerce, Lions, or Rotary, and seven were members of

the Business and Professional Women's Club. The Chamber of Commerce and the Business and Professional Women gave the building to the library and are responsible for its upkeep.

Miss Freddy Schader, consultant, Arkansas Library Commission, was a member of the morning panel, and Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission, was a member of the afternoon panel. Both gave splendid support to the program, and were greatly appreciated by the district.

At the afternoon session, it was voted unanimously that telegrams be sent by the group to our senators, urging support of the Library Services Bill.

There were more interest, more participation and better attendance this year than last. Though attend-

<sup>1</sup>Miss Pearl Williamson is trustee, Arkansas Library Commission, DeQueen.

ance was not so good as was hoped for, it was gratifying to have, from far and near, such high type, repre-

sentative citizens here, from over this big, seventeen county district.

## FIRST TRUSTEE MEETING IN LITTLE ROCK

<sup>1</sup>By Bessie Moore



E. C. Benton, Jr., Cecil Edmonds, W. P. Florence, Chas. Pyles.

**I**N the fifth congressional district we were fortunate indeed to have the first of a series of trustee meetings in Little Rock. This offered opportunity for publicity in both the Arkansas Democrat and the Arkansas Gazette as well as radio and television. Naturally we focused the publicity on "Operation Library" in all of these media. Television station KATV opened its "Scrapbook Program" with the story of "Operation Library" ably told by Cecil Edmonds,

chairman of the Jaycee project "Operation Library", and Mr. W. P. Florence, president of the Arkansas Library Trustees, himself an active Jaycee.

The meeting itself was fairly well attended with many business and civic leaders coming in for the luncheon at the Lafayette Hotel. There we had a unique experience of having only men at the speakers table. Mr. Edmonds made the principal

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Merlin M. Moore is chairman of the Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock.

speech giving the history of "Operation Library" and also its progress to date, along with plans for getting it adopted as a national project for the Jaycees. Rabbi Ira Sanders of Little Rock, a member of the Little Rock Public Library board, gave the invocation.

Panel discussions in both the morning and afternoon sessions with ample time for audience participation were exceedingly stimulating. There we had the opinions and counsel of a business man, a lawyer, a public relations expert, a librarian, several board members and some plain garden variety patrons.

Perhaps the finest things which came out of the Fifth District Library Information Meeting were the by-products. Hundreds of people have had an opportunity to look over the day's program even if they did not

come to the meeting because printed programs were mailed to every active group in the district along with the letter of invitation. Where else could we have had an opportunity to present the library story to every member of the legislature from the district?

Both the Arkansas Democrat and the Arkansas Gazette published excellent editorials as well as fine stories which reached thousands of people to make them aware of the Arkansas library program. This was a good example of using every opportunity to reach as many people as possible with information about libraries. True enough, it takes time and effort to arrange a series of meetings such as this, but I can think of no better method to create a favorable climate for a rapid growth of public libraries in Arkansas.

## LIBRARY MEETING HELD IN DESHA COUNTY COURT BUILDING

By Mildred Merritt<sup>1</sup>

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of civic, cultural and church organizations along with library trustees, librarians and members of city, county and state government, participated in a panel discussing the subject, "Ways of Reaching More Readers", at the library meeting held in Desha County Court Building in McGehee, Arkansas, on April 13th.

Each panel member, in a very interesting way, brought to the fifty-two persons present from thirteen towns in the Sixth Congressional District, facts about the present library service in their particular community and plans for expanding this service. The object of such a meeting was to better acquaint the public through these different organizations with the available library service in our state.

At noon members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce were guests

at a luncheon served by the American Legion Auxiliary. Mr. W. P. Florence, a member of the Magnolia Junior Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Trustees Section of the Arkansas Library Association, spoke to the group on the progress of the Jaycees project, "Operation Library". Mr. H. D. Danner, president of the McGehee Junior Chamber of Commerce, presented four books to be placed on the memorial shelf of the McGehee Branch of the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library in memory of the late Senator Dewitt Poe.

In the afternoon session, continued interest and enthusiasm was evidenced in another panel discussing the subject, "Financing Libraries". Several trustees, members of city, county and state government and members of the Arkansas Library Commission participated and explained to the group how libraries

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Jim Merritt is trustee, Arkansas Library Commission, McGehee.

are paid for on the local, county and state level.

Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary and librarian, Arkansas Library Commission, told of the progress of the

Library Services Bill now pending in Congress. The group went on record as favoring this bill, and a letter was forwarded to Congressman J. W. Trimble urging its passage.

## COMMITTEE REPORT "OPERATION LIBRARY"

To: Board of Directors, Arkansas Junior Chamber of Commerce  
From: Cecil Edmonds, State Chairman, "Operation Library"

The following report covers progress of this project from August 8, 1955 to April 30, 1956.

On August 8, 1955, a project was proposed by the undersigned at the State Board Meeting in Pine Bluff. The purpose of the project was to improve and expand library facilities throughout the State of Arkansas.

Investigation had revealed that although adequate library facilities are next in cultural importance to churches and schools, there was a drastic need for extensive work in this field in the State of Arkansas, as well as the rest of the nation. Twenty-five of seventy-five counties with a population of one-half million people are without adequate library facilities, and in the other fifty counties there is not one library that might be said to be adequately equipped and staffed to give service recommended by the American Library Association. It was noted that the Jaycees could do a tremendous public relations job for the libraries by assisting in calling attention to the lack of facilities and obtain community support for tax programs, book drives, modernization projects, etc., designed to remedy this lack.

The situation was tentatively discussed with members of the Arkansas Library Commission which has done an exceptional job with limited funds and staff workers. They agreed that an endeavor on the part of the State Junior Chamber of Commerce would probably be the finest thing that could happen to Arkansas' libraries.

The project was presented and adopted at the August Board Meeting, and the following is a resume of activities since that date.

1. A suitable chairman was sought from a club close to the Commission offices with no results.
2. The undersigned assumed the chairmanship in October and met with representatives of the Commission, Little Rock Jaycees, and Community Development Counselors for the Community Development Contest. At this meeting tentative plans were worked out for a Jaycee program.
3. Monthly bulletins have been mailed out since October to all local presidents and all local committee chairmen. Information concerning the need for the project and suggested ways in which a local club could be of assistance were outlined in these bulletins which were also sent to local librarians and library officials.
4. The Library Services Bill now pending in Congress was endorsed by the Arkansas Jaycees at the fall Board Meeting and since that time extensive correspondence has been carried on between the state chairman, members of Congress and library officials. Copies of the monthly bulletin have been mailed regularly to members of Congress.
5. Committee reports have been received periodically not only from local committee chairmen, but also from local librarians. At this time over 90% of Ar-

kansas' local chapters are participating in the project. This seems to be an all time high for participation in a state wide project of this nature.

6. A total of over 3,500 individual pieces of correspondence have been mailed from this office during the conduct of the project, including personal correspondence and mimeographed mailings. In addition, 1,000 post cards were prepared and mailed to Jaycees in every other state offering to give information on this project upon request.
7. An extensive mailing was made during the month of March to all librarians, trustees and library association members in Arkansas showing progress of the project and outlining plans for future development. Additional copies were mailed to key members of the House of Representatives and all members of the U. S. Senate.
8. Trustees meetings were held in each Congressional District during the month of April. Several hundred people attended these programs at which the luncheon was dedicated to the Arkansas Jaycees and "Operation Library". In each instance there was a Jaycee speaker to explain the growth and purpose of the project.
9. In April a meeting was held with American Library Association officials in Little Rock with Jaycees and Commission members to discuss possibilities for expanding the program nationally. After extensive discussions it was agreed that proposals would be made to the American Library Association at their convention in June and to the U. S. Jaycees at the Board Meeting in July, asking the adoption of a similar endeavor on a national level.
10. The project has received extensive publicity in local newspap-

ers throughout Arkansas, statewide publicity in the Arkansas Democrat and the Arkansas Gazette. T.V. coverage by all Little Rock stations. The official publication of the Arkansas Library Commission "Arkansas Libraries" has carried stories in the last two issues. It has received national publicity in "Future" magazine, the ALA BULLETIN, and international through a story in JCI WORLD.

11. Commendation has been received from a number of outside sources indicating that from a public relations standpoint alone, the project has been exceptional; and the work that is being done for the libraries throughout Arkansas will have lasting benefits for more people than from any other project we have sponsored.
12. A scrapbook has been prepared and will be entered in State Wide Project classification as an award entry from the STATE Jaycees. This is the first entry the State JCC has ever had in national competition.
13. Cost of the entire project to date has been \$141.26 consisting entirely of stationery, postage, ink and stencil costs. Of this amount, \$100.00 has been received as a gift of Winthrop Rockefeller to apply to the project—leaving a net cost to the state organization of \$41.26.

Based upon the reception that this project has been given, both in Jaycee circles as well as generally throughout the country, it is recommended that this program be continued next year and that sufficient funds be budgeted to cover costs of the program. It is suggested that a **minimum** of \$150.00 be appropriated, and that efforts be made to obtain funds from an outside source to supplement the budget and provide the means for further development and expansion of the program.



I cannot emphasize too strongly the benefits that have inured to the State Junior Chamber of Commerce by participation in this program. We are reaching people throughout the state that have never before been interested or affected by Jaycee programs, and many of them are among the more influential members of each community.

The value and benefit of the program to the State of Arkansas is evident. Continued efforts by the Jaycees will undoubtedly result in additional support by other civic and service organizations, thus giving added impetus to the movement for the creation of first class library facilities in every county as a further aid to both juvenile and adult education.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed by) Cecil Edmonds  
State Chairman  
Operation Library

P.S. Governor Orval Faubus recognized the library improvement efforts of the Arkansas Jaycees by awarding a "Citation of Merit" following his keynote speech at the State Convention in El Dorado. The citation is a beautifully designed three-color certificate. It reads as follows: "The State of Arkansas, The Arkansas Library Association, the Arkansas Library Commission present to the Arkansas Junior Chamber of Commerce this Citation of Merit in Recognition of the valuable contribution to the library program of Arkansas through the project Operation Library. It is dated May 4, 1956, and signed by Governor Faubus, Mrs. Merlin M. Moore, Chairman, Arkansas Library Commission and Mrs. Robert Keathley, President, Arkansas Library Association.

## PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR THE UNITED STATES JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. Name of project: "OPERATION LIBRARY".

2. Purpose of this project is to assist in establishing, improving and expanding library facilities throughout the United States.

3. Project Description and History. This project originated in West Memphis, Arkansas, when the local librarian asked the Jaycees for assistance in building up a small community library which had previously received little or no attention. Investigation revealed provisions in the law, which provided for a 1 mill tax for support of city and county libraries. Jaycees circulated petitions, placed measure on the ballot for the November general election, waged educational campaign to gain public support and the measure was passed by a 14 to 1 majority. They have since assisted in selection of library trustees, writing ordinances, drafting by-laws, and

are now engaged in a continuing support program.

During conduct of the local project, the program was submitted to the Arkansas Junior Chamber of Commerce for adoption as a state-wide project. It was approved and subsequently 100% of Arkansas local chapters have participated in book drives, book fairs, tax support measures, public relations programs, financial assistance programs and many other endeavors of a similar nature which have been successfully conducted in communities where there were no library facilities as well as those where facilities were present.

4. Reason for Submitting to U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

a. The need for such a program is national in scope. Research shows that although Arkansas lags in library development, the State is far ahead of a majority of the other states in



formulating a systematic program of expansion and service.

b. The Junior Chamber of Commerce is the most logical organization to spearhead such an intensive national effort because of its youthful enthusiasm, experience in publicizing other projects and the representative nature of each local chapter, which is usually a cross section of the entire community, able to enlist wholehearted community support for the endeavor.

c. The tremendous success of the Arkansas Jaycees in promoting the program on a state-wide basis is indicative of what can be done nationally. This has been the most successful state project ever undertaken, both from a standpoint of accomplishment as well as participation by local chapters.

d. The project has been discussed with officials of the American Library Association who visited Arkansas in April, 1956, for a first hand look at the program. They were extremely receptive and will be able to assist in the conduct of the project to insure maximum success of such a national effort.

#### 5. Benefits.

##### a. To the Nation.

Effect of such a program staggers the imagination. The public library is next in cultural importance to schools and churches. Expansion of library facilities is one of the greatest single aids that can be fostered for both juvenile and adult education. The need is national in scope and the entire nation will receive untold benefits.

##### b. To the Community.

Already apparent from the project's progress in Arkansas are the benefits to be derived from such a program. New jobs are created with the establishment of more libraries. Greater opportunities are provided for children and adults to further their education or benefit from wholesome recreation. Indeed public library ob-

jectives are stated in five words—"Information, education, recreation and research."

##### c. To the Jaycees.

Undoubtedly the finest public relations project ever undertaken by the Arkansas Jaycees. The project is non-controversial, universal in appeal and provides an action program for chapters of every size. In Arkansas, the Jaycees received a "Citation of Merit" from the Governor for originating the project although it has been in operation only a few months.

#### 6. Conduct of Project by Local and State Organizations.

This program was originated by a local Jaycee chapter and developed into a state project of the Arkansas Junior Chamber of Commerce. Over forty chapters have some type of program. References: Cecil Edmonds, West Memphis Jaycees; Maxwell J. Lyons, President, Arkansas Jaycees; Mrs. Merlin Moore, chairman, Arkansas Library Commission and Mrs. Karl Neal, executive secretary and Librarian, Arkansas Library Commission, 506½ Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

#### 7. Adaptability to Jaycee Chapters.

The project may be carried out by any size chapter in any size community, with or without library facilities.

#### 8. Timing of Project.

This is a continuing project with a recommended minimum participation by the U. S. Jaycees of at least three years on a twelve-month basis.

#### 9. Estimated Costs.

a. To a typical local club the cost of promotion of library assistance programs can be negligible or as expensive as they desire to make it. Most projects can be very inexpensive and obtain quite effective results.

b. Cost of the national program is estimated at \$5,000 for the first year, but this would naturally increase or decrease with the type of promotion

deemed desirable by planning groups. It is expected that once under way the program would attract outside funds if it is effective enough. Free materials can be made available through the American Library Association.

#### 10. Implementation of Project.

The program can be started easily due to the experience gained by promotion of the project by Arkansas Jaycees. Individual assistance can be rendered state groups through the facilities of the American Library Association, State Library Extension Organizations, (including Commissions and Traveling Libraries) and State Library Associations.

Since action will come mainly on a local level, and local as well as state needs vary greatly, it is simple to coordinate local projects with library trustees and librarians in each community and thus promote those projects best suited for each situation.

11. A few national and state organizations have undertaken promotion of

library facilities in the past. Notable among these has been the efforts of the American Federation of Women's Clubs. However, there has been no concerted action program such as the one contemplated by this proposal.

12. The project will not be offered exclusively to the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. On the contrary, as with many other Jaycee endeavors, the purpose of the program will be to enlist the aid and support of as many groups as possible on a national, state and local level to obtain maximum results. The Jaycees will act, however, as a coordinating agency. The public library belongs to the entire community, and all community groups should be enlisted in its behalf.

Submitted by: The Arkansas Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Cecil Edmonds, Project Chairman  
P. O. Box 457

West Memphis, Arkansas.

June, 1956.

## BOOKS FOR YOU

**Hoofbeats to Heaven:** a true chronicle of the life and wild times of Peter Cartwright, the circuit rider, by Sydney and Marjorie Barstow Greenbie; Traversity Press. (\$6).

A compelling story in its own right, this volume is the first in a series of three which are designed "to describe the progress of American civilization through the dramatic and often melodramatic story of Peter Cartwright, the most spectacular of the circuit riders." Hero of this great American saga, Cartwright saw, in his 87 years, the growth of the United States from Atlantic to Pacific. In the activities of his younger years he traversed the Mississippi Valley; and in his older years he spanned the continent from Boston to Oregon.

In many years of writing, Sydney Greenbie and Marjorie Barstow

Greenbie have covered not only the world scene to a degree unsurpassed by any other author team in America; they have also depicted life in the American hemisphere, telling in 14 books the romantic story of the inspiring "search for a better life" which peopled this western world from Canada to Argentina. Their well-known play, "The General Was a Lady," appeared in 1949. Their biographical account of "Anna Carroll and Abraham Lincoln," published in 1951, has implemented a reassessment of values and influences in the life of the emancipator.

In the present chronicle, the authors have persistently recovered details from county court records, state archives, diaries and memoirs, local histories and contemporary travel reports to give a fascinating account of Peter Cartwright's parents and of

his youth. It is a story of the GI's of the American Revolution who settled the Military Tract in Kentucky against the opposition of a criminal band which had pre-empted. Wrestling from these bad men their settlement at Rogue's Harbor, the veterans fought them with legal action, gunfire and fantastic campaigns of prayer instituted by James McGready, a Presbyterian preacher. The efforts of lay leaders, circuit riders, "Methodys," Baptists and Presbyterians alike combined in an unrelenting encounter with "the Devil." The "little ol' Kentucky boy," Peter, grew up in an atmosphere of gamblers' dens and camp meetings. Strong and quick-witted, warm-hearted, he barely escaped branding in the fierce fires himself, and finally made his decision in the end to become a circuit rider, at the urging of Francis Ashbury.

The Greenbies have made an important contribution to American historical writing through their painstaking description and analysis of those elements in our early history

which make us Americans "a new species on earth." In their interpretation of what actually happened, records when disinterred and properly put together decry the persistent errors of "glib generalization" to show that revivalism was only the reaction of decent young people to crime which had frustrated and rendered their lives abnormal for many years. American democracy began on the Military Tract of Kentucky as distinctly as it began in Jamestown or Plymouth; and these veterans of the Revolution who crossed the Alleghenies deserve their rightful place in American annals along with the brave little Mayflower band or the settlers in Virginia.

Certainly no reader can emerge from this lengthy but deeply rewarding book without a clear, transcending view of the early development of Methodism on this continent.

LaNell Compton

Cataloger, Arkansas  
Library Commission

## NEWSNOTES

**Miss S. Janice Kee**, executive secretary, Public Libraries Division, and **Len Arnold**, director, Public Relations, both of the American Library Association, Chicago, Illinois, were in Little Rock, April 21, to review what Arkansas Jaycees have done toward making "Operation Library" a national project. P. D. Gathright, state Jaycee president; Mrs. Merlin Moore, chairman of the Arkansas Library Commission, Mrs. Karl Neal, Arkansas Library Commission executive secretary and Mrs. Robert Keathley, president, Arkansas Library Association, were present for the discussion meeting. Mr. Edmonds traced the project's growth, via an elaborate scrapbook of correspondence and activities, from the initial suggestion by M. W. Hightshoe, librarian in West Memphis.

**Thirty-six Arkansas librarians and trustees and friends** went to Miami

Beach by chartered bus to attend the annual conference of the American Library Association.

Four officers of the Arkansas Library Association were in the group: Mrs. Winnie Lowe, Briggsville, chairman of the School Library Section of the state library association; Miss Elizabeth Malone, Jonesboro, secretary of the association; Mrs. Karl Neal, Little Rock, state librarian who is Arkansas' councilor to the American Library Association; and Mrs. Hazel Pritchard, Hope, treasurer of the Arkansas Library Association. Mrs. Almon Fought, Jonesboro, trustee, Miss Freddy Schader, elementary school library consultant, and Mrs. Marie Pinckney, business manager, Arkansas Library Commission, Little Rock, were also among the bus travelers. Others included: Mrs. Jessie Bach, Newport, Mrs. Inez Bishop, Searcy, Mrs. Elsie Burk, Jonesboro,

Miss Erma Chastain, Fort Smith, Mrs. T. S. Compton and Miss LaNell Compton, Little Rock, Mrs. Ella Daugherty, Benton, Miss Nola Ellis, ElDorado, Mrs. Evelyn Garlington, Fordyce, Miss Frances Goodall, Odessa, Texas, Mrs. Georgiana Greeson, Helena, Mrs. Mary Beth Griffith, Batesville, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hall, Fort Smith, Mrs. Beatrice Hardcastle, Little Rock, Miss Helen Heinemann, Jonesboro, Mrs. Ruth Hill, Jonesboro, Miss Elisabeth Huey, Monticello, Miss Wilma Ingram, Greenwood, Miss Florene Jordan, Magnolia, Miss Gladys Krone, Fort Smith, Miss Mattie Malone, Memphis, Mrs. Clarice J. Pollard, Sheridan, Miss Ayleen Ragland, Fort Smith, Mrs. Averil Randall, Memphis, Miss Lucille Slater, ElDorado, Mrs. Dorothy Sydenstricker, Batesville, Miss Attie Lee Turner, Batesville, Miss Nina Turner, Hardy, and Miss Eileen West, ElDorado. Seven other Arkansas persons also attended the national library meeting: Mrs. Merlin M. Moore, chairman, Arkansas Library Commission, and Mrs. Anne S. Jackson, consultant for public and high school libraries, and Mrs. Margaret Yost, reference librarian, Arkansas Library Commission, all of Little Rock; Miss Delia Mattison, Fayetteville, Miss Mary Elizabeth Upton, Little Rock, and Miss Elsie Weisenberger, North Little Rock. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Jackson went to the pre-conference meeting of the National Association of State Libraries at the Roney-Plaza Hotel in Miami, and to the ALA Public Relations Workshop.

A talking Bible (complete New Testament) as a memorial to fellow townsman R. I. Sharp was presented in April to the Rector Public Library by Miss Ganeath Sharp of Rector and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Stroud. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Stroud and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stroud, all of Batesville. The album of twenty-six records is black leatherette lettered in gold. Continuous playing time is twenty-three and a half hours.

Trustees of the Rector Library have purchased for the library a VM portable phonograph in gray scuff

resistant finish to be used with the Talking Bible. Members of local organizations will use the Talking Bible in the homes of elderly people and others unable to see how to read.

\* \* \*

**The Soil Conservation Division in Arkansas** has presented two kits of publications on soil conservation to bookmobiles and libraries in the state, in cooperation with the Arkansas Library Commission.

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**The twelfth Arkansas Writers' Conference** at Hardison Hall, Petit Jean, June 1-3, featured on its opening day program a symposium by two librarians and a research expert. Miss LaNell Compton, cataloger, Arkansas Library Commission, talked first on "The Kind of Books People Read," basing her remarks on the current best sellers in fiction and non-fiction. Ted Worley, executive secretary of the Arkansas History Commission and editor of the *ARKANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY*, followed with some clever comments and many valuable "Hints on Historical Research." Librarians in the state will be interested in Mr. Worley's announcement that his task of completely indexing the *ARKANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY* is well under way and partially finished. Miss Clara Kennan, reference librarian, North Little Rock Public Library, explained the art of "Making Use of Library Books," citing specific examples of the several ways in which writers may profitably employ library materials and services when constructing the basic background for a book.

**Mrs. James T. Randle**, former librarian Booneville Junior High School, became librarian at the Logan County Library, June 28. **Mrs. Sunshine Yates** has retired as head librarian but will continue as part time assistant to Mrs. Randle.

**Miss Edna Patton** resigned July 1, as librarian, Conway-Perry Regional Library, Morrilton. **E. H. Dahlke**, will reassume duties as librarian, July 15.

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